

Archie

ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO.7 US \$2.25
CAN \$2.75



THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL™

GIANT 48 PAGES

Image™



DIRECT EDITION

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

PARALLEL PARADIGM

WRITTEN &
INKED BY:
KEN PENDERS

ILLUSTRATED BY:
JIM VALENTINO

COLORS BY:
FRANK
GAGLIARDO &
PAT SPAZIANTE

LETTERED BY:
JEFF POWELL

FRONTISPIECE &
CENTER SPREAD
BY:
PAT SPAZIANTE &
HARVEY
MERCADOOCASIO

COVER
SEPARATION BY:
HEROIC AGE

INTERIOR
SEPARATIONS BY:
GRAPHIC COLOR
WORKS

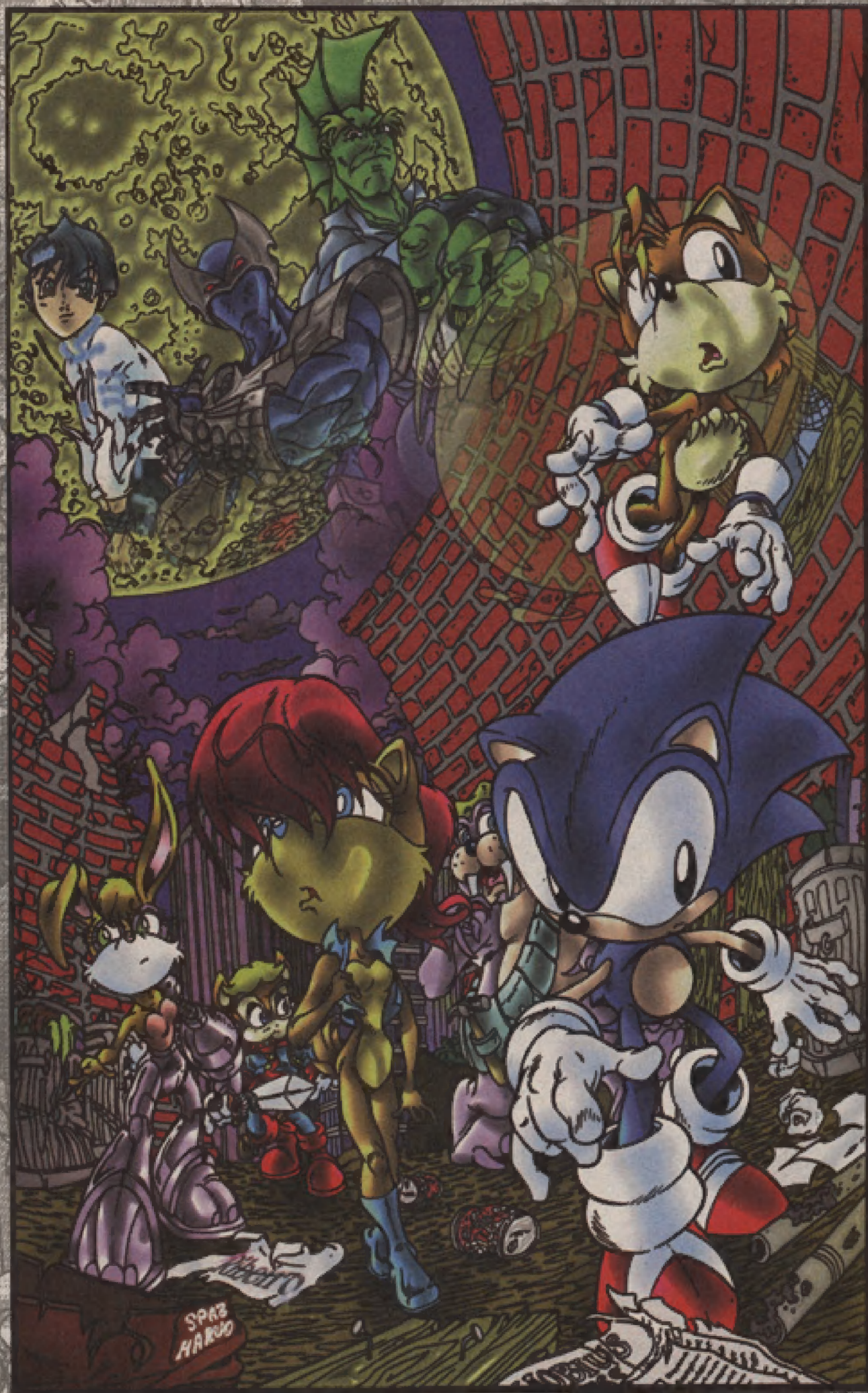
FRONTIS PIECE
SEPARATIONS BY:
NELSON RIBEIRO

PIN-UP
SEPARATIONS BY:
PAT SPAZIANTE

EDITED BY:
JUSTIN F. GABRIE

MANAGING EDITOR:
VICTOR GORELICK

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
RICHARD GOLDWATER



SONIC SUPER SPECIAL, No. 7, 1998. Published quarterly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$2.25 in the U.S.; \$2.75 in Canada. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sonic the Hedgehog, Knuckles the Echidna and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of Sega. © 1998 Sega. Image © and © by Image Comics, Inc. The Maxx is TM and © by Sam Kieth. Savage Dragon is © and © by Erik Larsen. ShadowHawk is © and © by Jim Valentino. Spawn is TM and © by Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. (courtesy Todd McFarlane). Union is TM and © by Aegis Entertainment, Inc., dba Wildstorm Productions, Inc. (courtesy Jim Lee). Velocity is TM and © by Top Cow Productions, Inc. (courtesy Marc Silvestri). Particle, Dr. Ian Droid and Tsunami © and TM 1998 Ken Penders. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC SUPER SPECIAL, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318/Printed in Canada.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Have you ever thought about how a certain string of events brought you from Point A arrived to Point Z? Each event that occurred affecting the next like falling dominos. It was from such a "domino effect" the crossover between Sonic The Hedgehog and the heroes of Image Comics emerged.

Now, I'm no stranger to inter-company crossovers. As an assistant editor at Marvel Comics, I worked on "*Punisher/Batman: Deadly Knights*" (co-published by Marvel and DC Comics) and the unlikely crossover of "ARCHIE MEETS THE PUNISHER" (co-published by Archie Comics and Marvel). I knew, based on my experience working on these two crossovers, this project would be lots of fun, but at the same time, a tremendous amount of work for all involved.

Getting back to our domino effect, this issue begins with two brothers, Joel and Aaron Valentino, who are big fans of Sonic & Knuckles comics. As fate would have it, their father is Jim Valentino, creator of *Shadowhawk* and co-founder of Image Comics. Wanting to do something for his kids, Jim contacted Paul Castiglia (promotional director here at Archie Comics) and wondered if he could illustrate a pin-up of Sonic. He had so much fun drawing that pin-up (it printed in SONIC #60), that he was interested in penciling a Sonic story. I asked Sonic & Knuckles regular Ken Penders to collaborate with Jim on a story that could fit within Jim's busy schedule. They came back to me with a synopsis outlining this huge inter-company crossover. I quickly dusted myself off after falling out of my chair and immediately set out to help make this proposal into the reality you now hold in your hands.

Now that we're at Point Z, I'd like to thank Jim, Ken, Spaz and everyone else for all their hard work producing this book. A big "thanks" also goes out to the powers that be at Image Comics for allowing Sonic, Knuckles, and The Freedom Fighters to play in their backyard. Last, but not least, a special thanks should go to Aaron and Joel Valentino. Without their interest in our Blue Blur and Rad Red, there would be no Point A to begin with.

So sit back, relax, read on and enjoy!

Catch you on the flip side!

JUSTIN
FREDDY
GABRIE



久大皮也色

MY NAME IS
PARTICLE.

AND YOU
CLAIM THIS
DEVICE--

THE
VIBRATIONAL
TUNER.

--THIS
TUNER TRANS-
PORTED YOU
TO AN ALIEN
WORLD?

FBI HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, DC
11:21 PM

"THE TUNER DOESN'T
WORK THAT WAY."

"BUT YOU SAID THE
PLACE YOU VISITED
LOOKED FUTURISTIC?"

"COULD YOU HAVE
MOVED FORWARD
IN TIME?"

"POSSIBLY--

"--BUT I
CAN'T SEE
HOW."

RRRA

BOOM

"THE TUNER WAS DESIGNED
TO PROVE THE THEORY OF
ALTERNATE REALITIES--"

--WORLDS THAT EXIST WITHIN
THE SAME SPACE/TIME BUT ON
DIFFERENT DIMENSIONAL
PLANES--

--SEPARATED ONLY BY
THE FREQUENCY AT
WHICH THEY VIBRATE.

"I HAD BEEN PREPARED TO
ENCOUNTER A WORLD MUCH
LIKE OURS WITH SOME
VARIATIONS--


--BUT NOTHING COULD
HAVE PREPARED ME FOR
WHAT I ACTUALLY
ENCOUNTERED!"

SONIC
THE
HEDGEHOG
OVER THERE!

LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE'S OFF
THE BEATEN
PATH, TAILS--

--AND IT'S AN
OVERLANDER, NO
LESS!

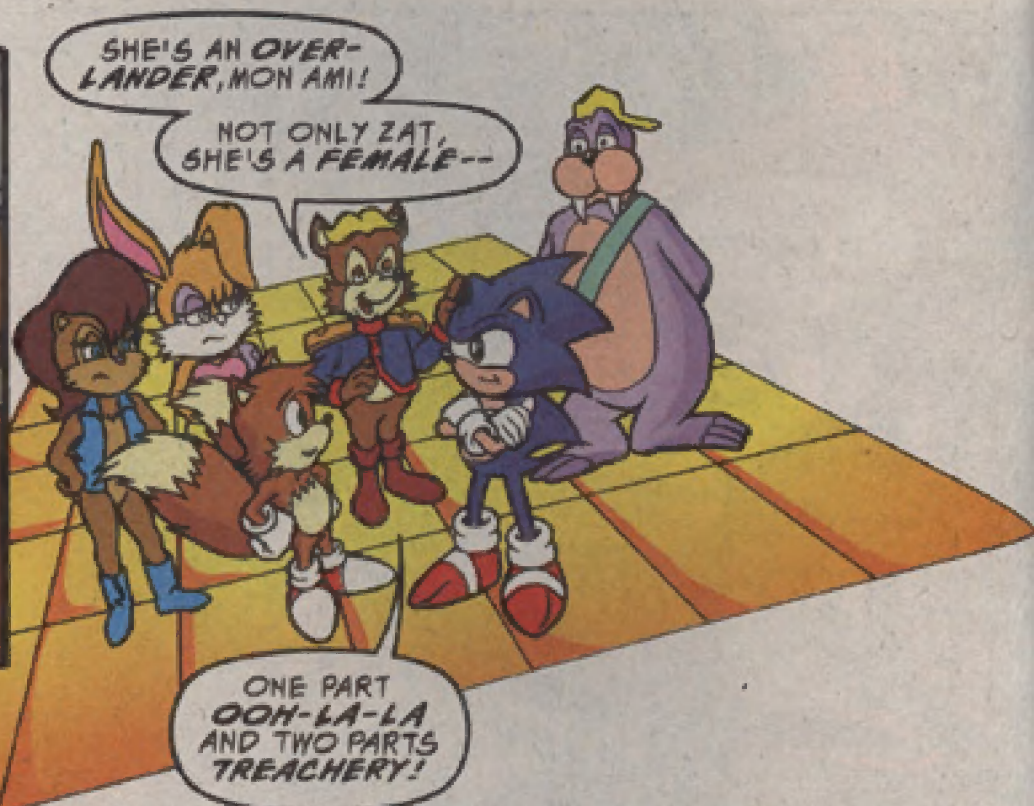
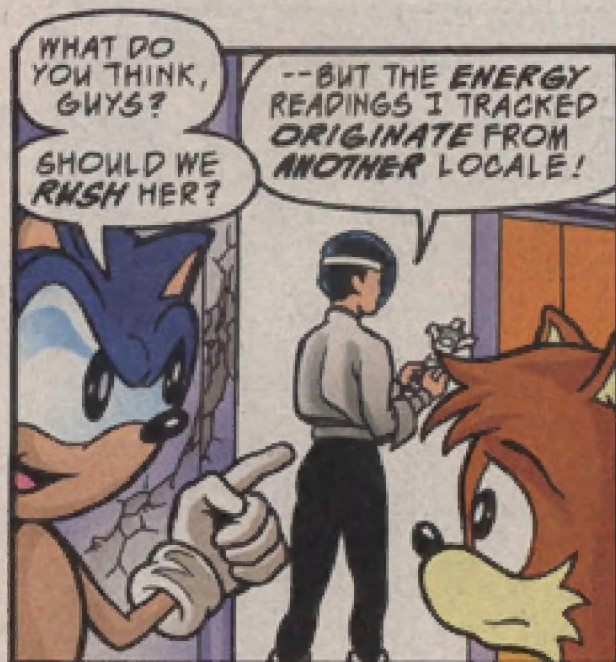




WHERE
ON EARTH
AM I?

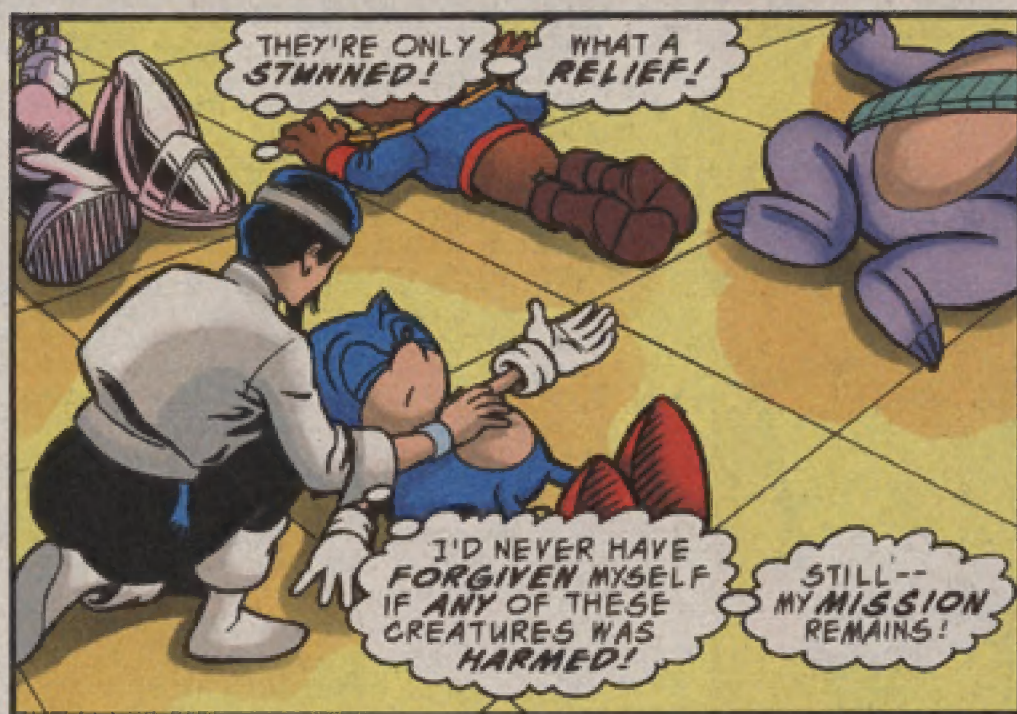
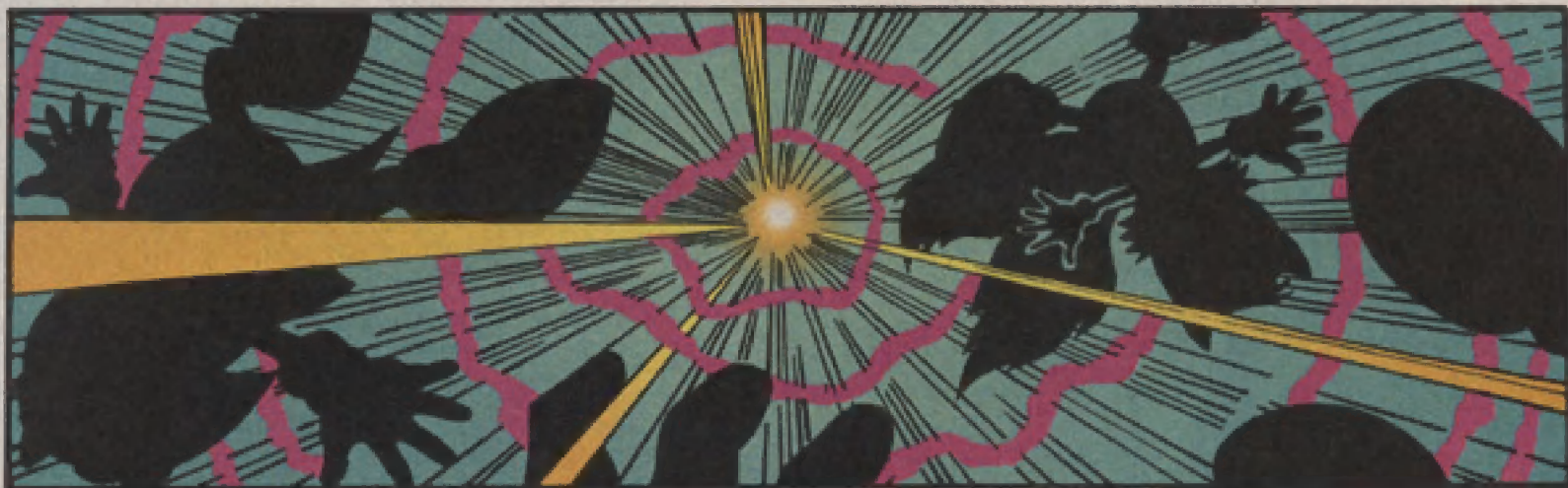
WHATEVER
THIS PLACE IS,
IT'S SURE NOT
KANSAS!

NOT ONLY
THAT--



*An UNTOLD story you'll have to remind us to tell you sometime.-- Justin





THEY'RE ONLY STUNNED!

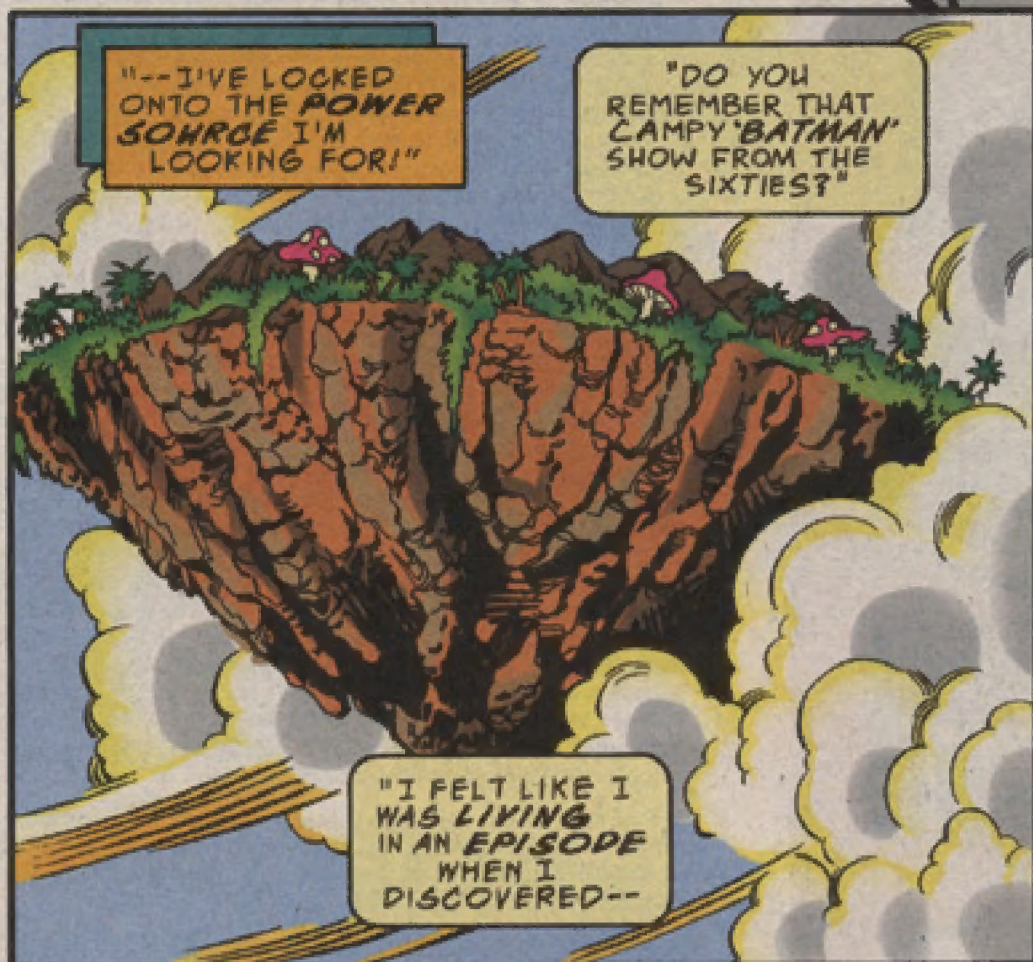
WHAT A RELIEF!

I'D NEVER HAVE FORGIVEN MYSELF IF ANY OF THESE CREATURES WAS HARMED!

STILL-- MY MISSION REMAINS!



WITH A QUICK ADJUSTMENT OF THE TRIANGULATION RADAR ON THE TUNER--



"--I'VE LOCKED ONTO THE POWER SOURCE I'M LOOKING FOR!"

"DO YOU REMEMBER THAT CAMPY 'BATMAN' SHOW FROM THE SIXTIES?"

"I FELT LIKE I WAS LIVING IN AN EPISODE WHEN I DISCOVERED--"



"THE ZOOT CHUTE?"

IS THIS CAMP OR WHAT?



HOLY BATCAVE! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

I'M SUPPOSED TO SLIDE DOWN THERE?



I'M SOOOO GLAD
THERE ISN'T ANYONE
AROUND TO SEE ME
MAKE A FOOL OF
MYSELFLLLLLLF!

WHOA!



THAT COULDN'T
BEEN QUITE THE
UNDIGNIFIED
LANDING!

WHOEVER
DESIGNED THIS
PLACE--

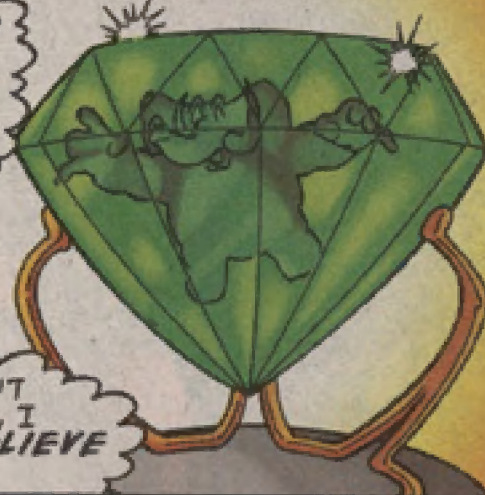
--PROBABLY NEVER
EVEN CRACKED OPEN A
COPY OF ARCHITECTURAL
DIGEST!

GET ON TO HERE!



A DAY-GLO
ELEPHANT
MAN EN-
CASED IN A
HMMONGOMS
EMERALD!

IF I WASN'T
SEEING IT, I
WOULDN'T BELIEVE
IT!



FAN-TASTIC!

ACCORDING
TO THE TUNER,
THIS IS WHERE
THE POWER
SOURCE
EMANATES
FROM!



BUT IS IT THE EMERALD
-- THE ELEPHANT MAN -- OR
BOTH WHICH GENERATES
THE ENERGY -- HUH?

WHO
INVITED YOU
HERE?!

KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA

DON'T TELL
ME! LET ME
GUESS!

YOU MUST
BE--

GUARDIAN
OF THE FLOATING
ISLAND, DEFENDER
OF THE CHAOS
EMERALD--

--AND THE ONE
WHO'S GONNA KICK
SERIOUS BUTT IF
YOU TRY ANYTHING
STUPID!

CHAOS
EMERALD?

BUT, OF COURSE!
YOU MUST BE **DEPENDENT**
UPON IT AS A **POWER**
SOURCE, TOO!

WHAT'S
IT TO
YOU?

NOW BACK
AWAY FROM
THERE BEFORE
I GET REALLY
MAD!

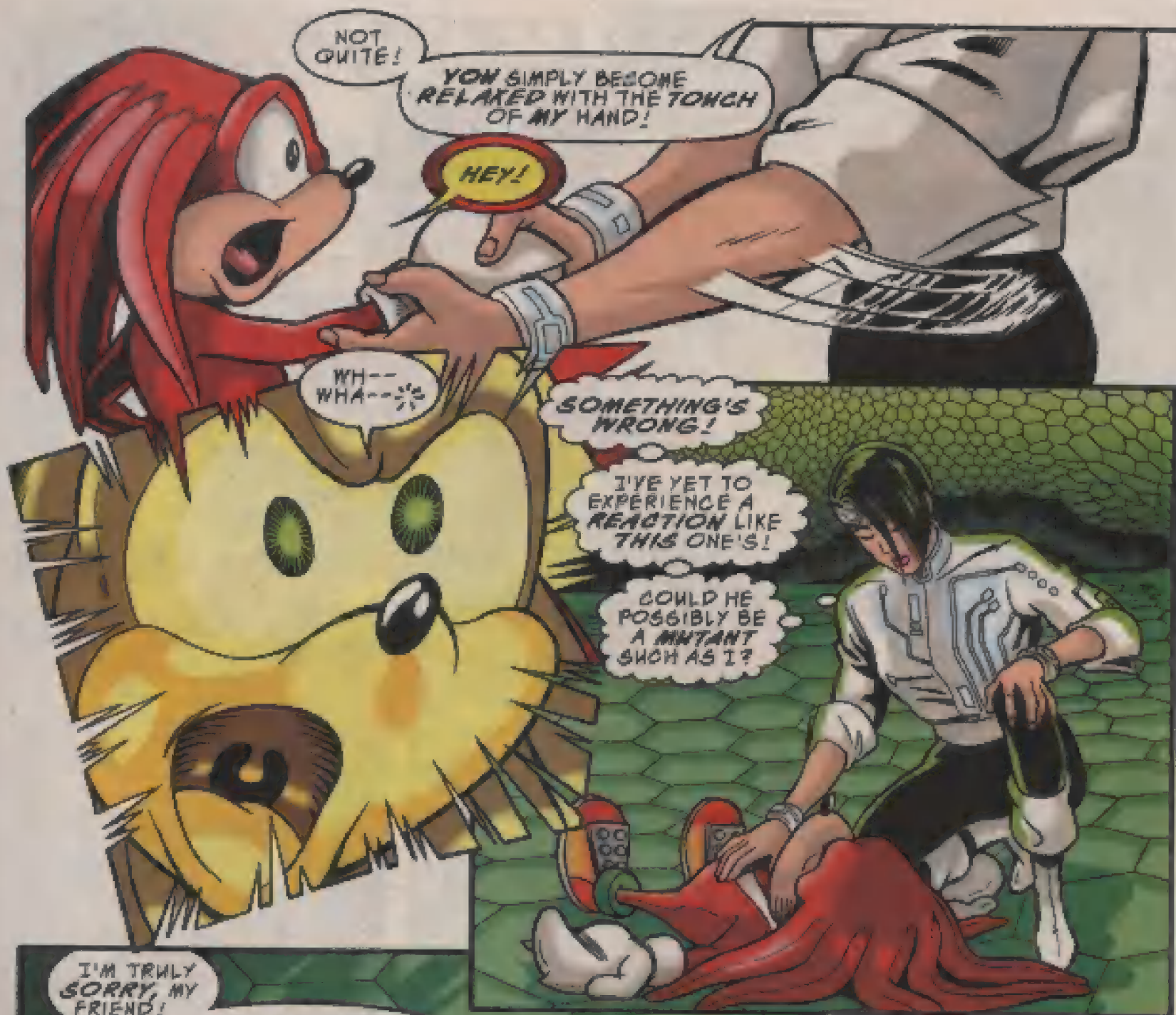
WHERE I COME
FROM, WE EXTEND
OUR OPEN
HANDS--

--AS A
SIGN TO
SHOW WE
MEAN NO
HARM!

I'M
GAME!

WHAT
HAPPENS
NEXT--

YOU
SURRENDER
AFTER WE SHAKE
HANDS?



NOT
QUITE!

YOU SIMPLY BECAME
RELAXED WITH THE TOUCH
OF MY HAND!

HEY!

WH--
WHA--

SOMETHING'S
WRONG!

I'VE YET TO
EXPERIENCE A
REACTION LIKE
THIS ONE'S!

COULD HE
POSSIBLY BE
A MUTANT
SUCH AS I?



I'M TRULY
SORRY, MY
FRIEND!

I WISH I DIDN'T
HAVE TO RESORT TO
SUCH DESPERATE
MEASURES--

--BUT THE
CIRCUMSTANCES
ARE BEYOND MY
CONTROL!

NOT TO MENTION,
I'VE NOW LESS THAN A
MINUTE TO ADJUST THE
TUNER SO I CAN TRANS-
PORT THE POWER SOURCE
I CAME FOR!

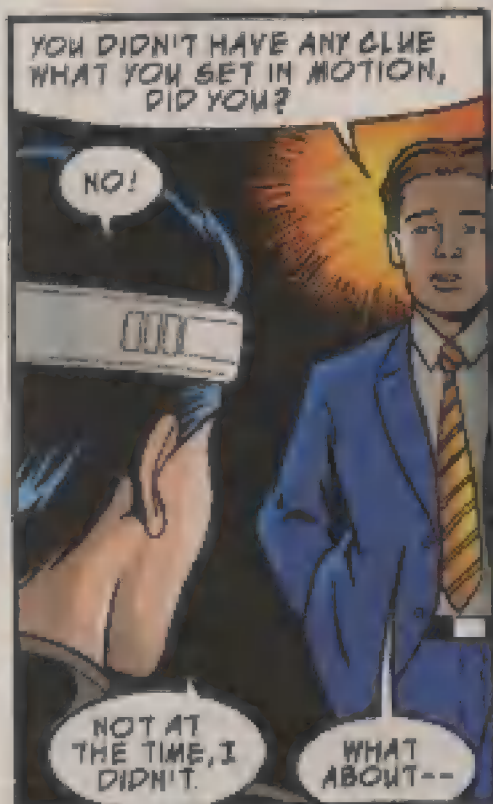
I'LL LET THE
DOCTOR FIGURE
OUT HOW IT WORKS
ONCE I TURN IT OVER
TO HIM!

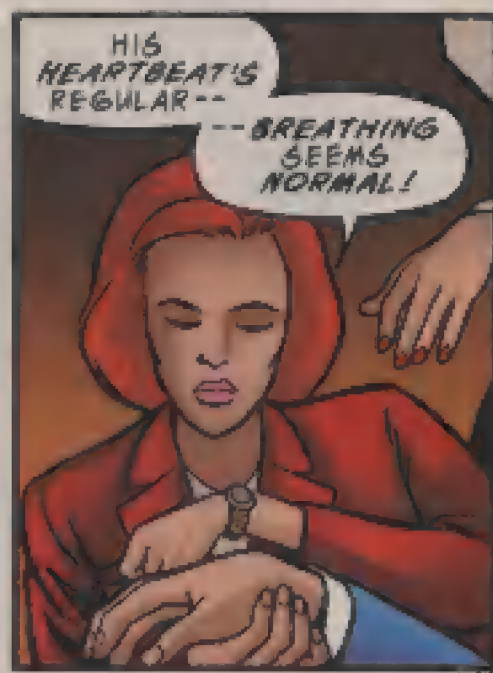


THREE--

--TWO--

--ONE--







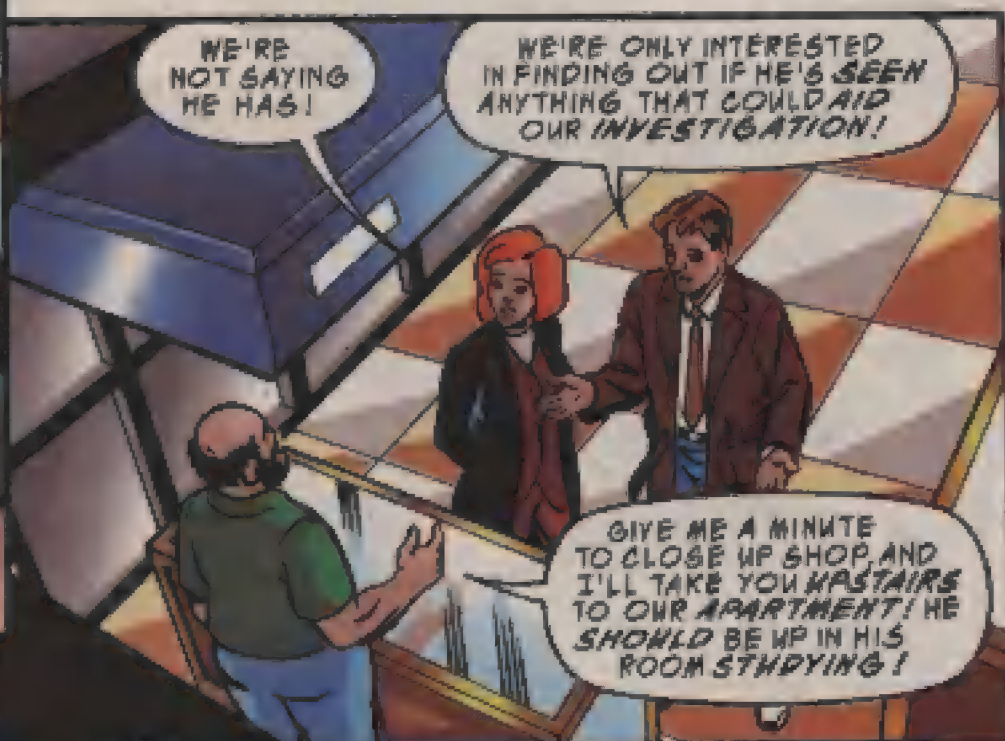




EDDIE? WHY ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT HIM?

HE'S A GOOD KID!

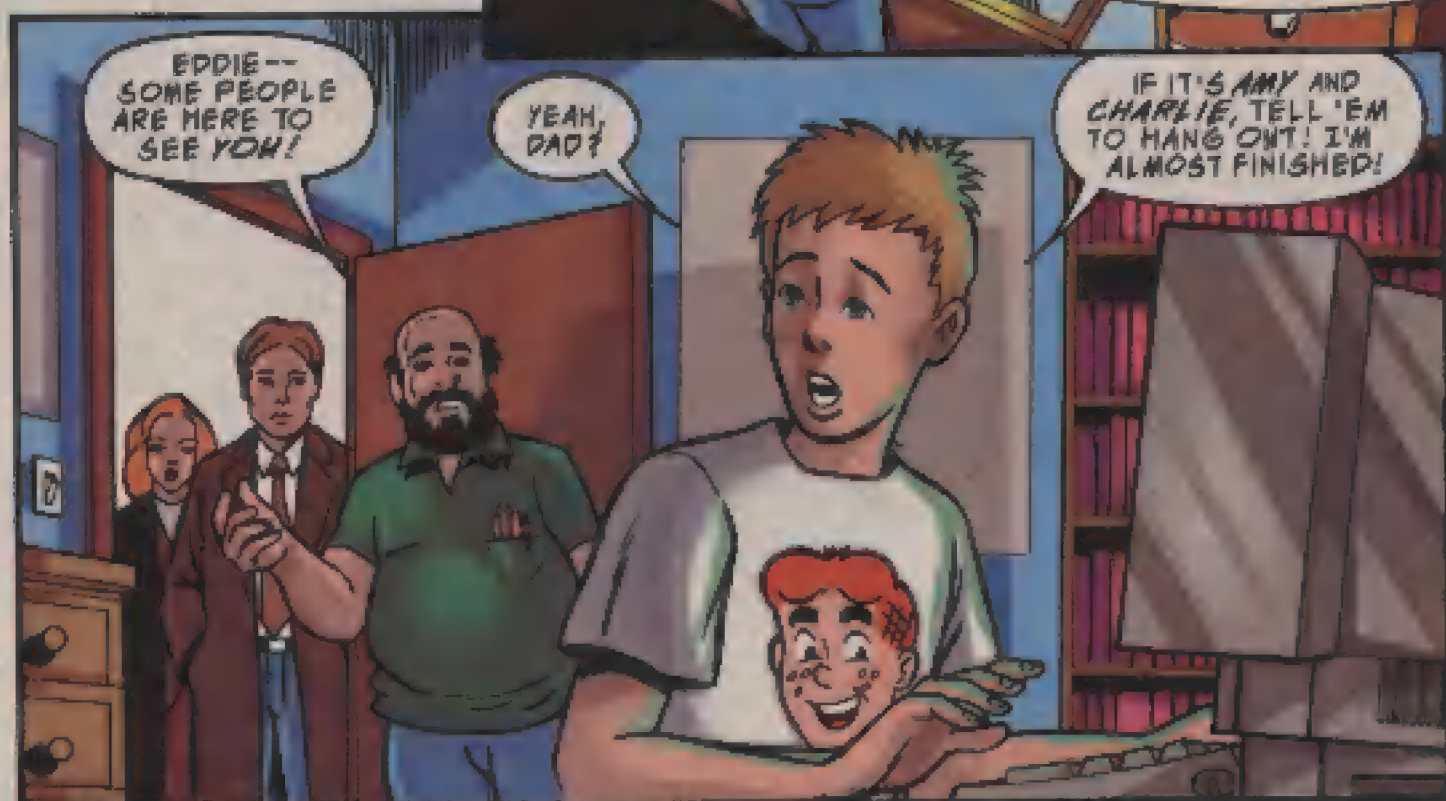
HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!



WE'RE NOT SAYING HE HAS!

WE'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT IF HE'S SEEN ANYTHING THAT COULD AID OUR INVESTIGATION!

GIVE ME A MINUTE TO CLOSE UP SHOP AND I'LL TAKE YOU UPSTAIRS TO OUR APARTMENT! HE SHOULD BE UP IN HIS ROOM STUDYING!



EDDIE-- SOME PEOPLE ARE HERE TO SEE YOU!

YEAH, DAD?

IF IT'S AMY AND CHARLIE, TELL 'EM TO HANG OUT! I'M ALMOST FINISHED!

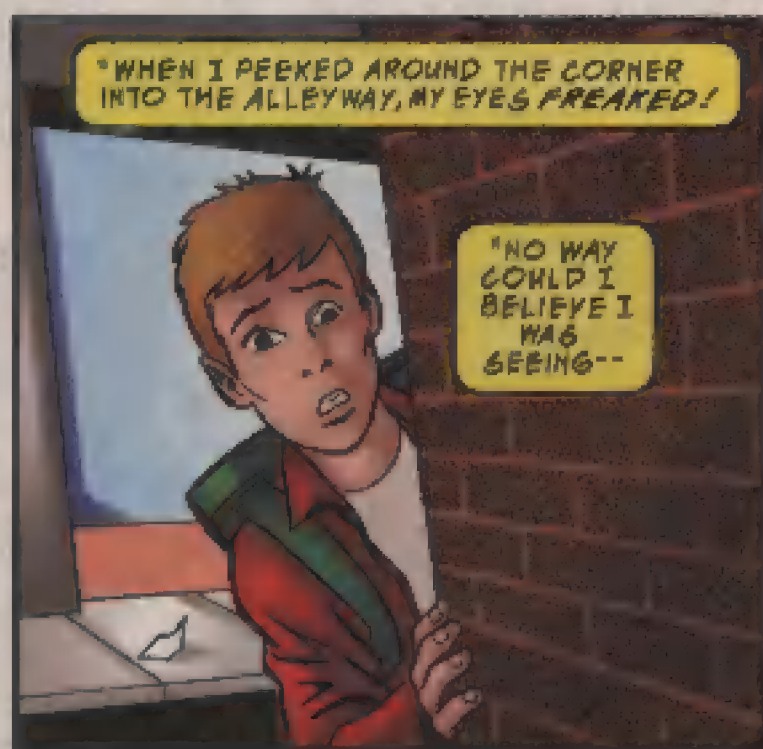
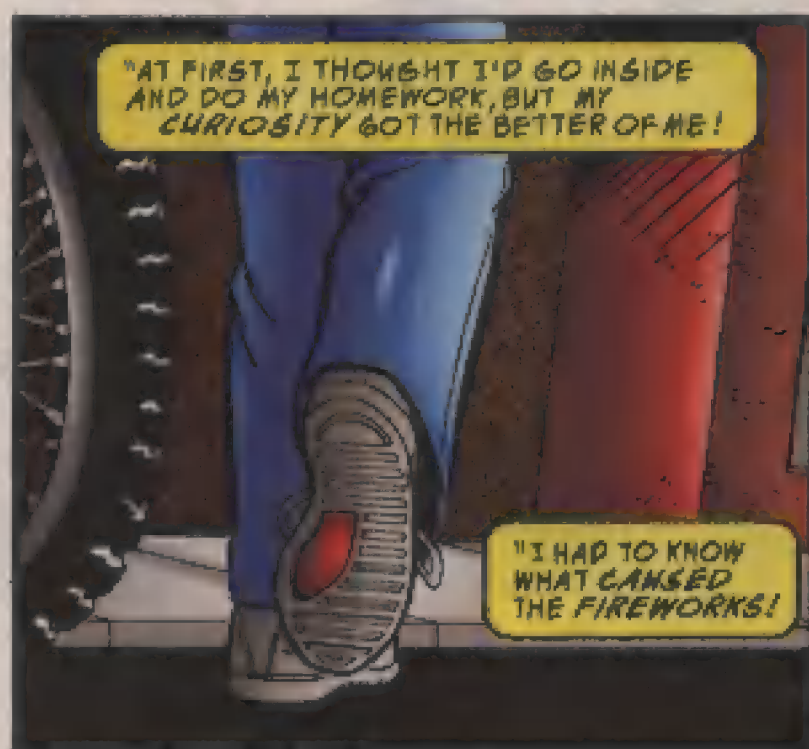
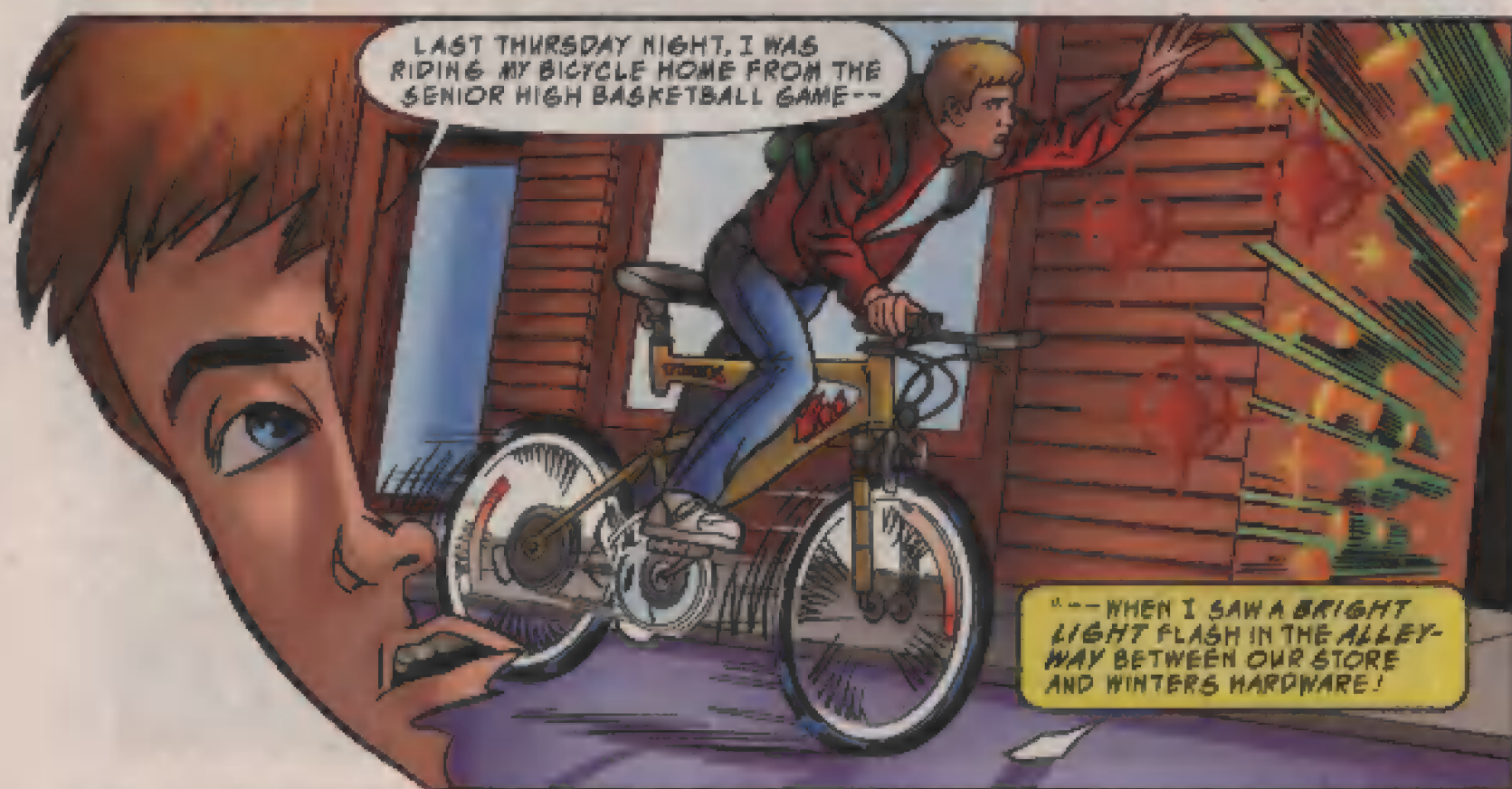


SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR CONCENTRATION, EDDIE!

WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU COULD TELL US WHAT HAPPENED THIS PAST WEEKEND AT LUGHS AIR FORCE BASE!

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

WE FOUND YOUR FATHER'S BUSINESS CARD--



"--THIS REAL TALL DWDE JUST STOOD THERE LOOKING DARK AND MYSTERIOUS WITH A CAPE THAT MOVED ALL AROUND AS IF IT WERE ALIVE, AND HE WAS SURROUNDED BY KIDS DRESSED UP LIKE VIDEO GAME CHARACTERS! THEN I REMEMBERED--"

"OH, YEAH!"

"FORGOT IT'S HALLOWEEN!"

"AT LEAST SOMEONE AROUND HERE KNOWS HOW TO HAVE FUN!"

SAY THERE, TALL-DARK-AND-GRUESOME--

DO YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHERE WE ARE?

WE DON'T NEED A ROAD MAP JUST A SIGNPOST!

NO.

OF ALL THE--!

THE NATIVES SURE ARE FRIENDLY AROUND HERE!

NOW WHAT?



WE STILL HAVEN'T ANY IDEA WHERE WE ARE OR HOW TO GET WHERE WE NEED TO!

HMM?



EXCUSE ME! MAYBE I CAN HELP! I GUESS YOU KIDS ARE LOST!

HMM?



GREAT COSTUMES, BY THE WAY!

I'VE PLAYED THE GAMES AND WATCHED THE SATURDAY MORNING CARTOON!

WAY COOL STUFF!

COSTUMES?



I HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUD, BUT WE'RE THE REAL DEAL!

ARE ALL YOU OVERLANDERS THIS SLOW ON THE UPTAKE?



OH, COME ON!!

IT'S COOL, HONEST!

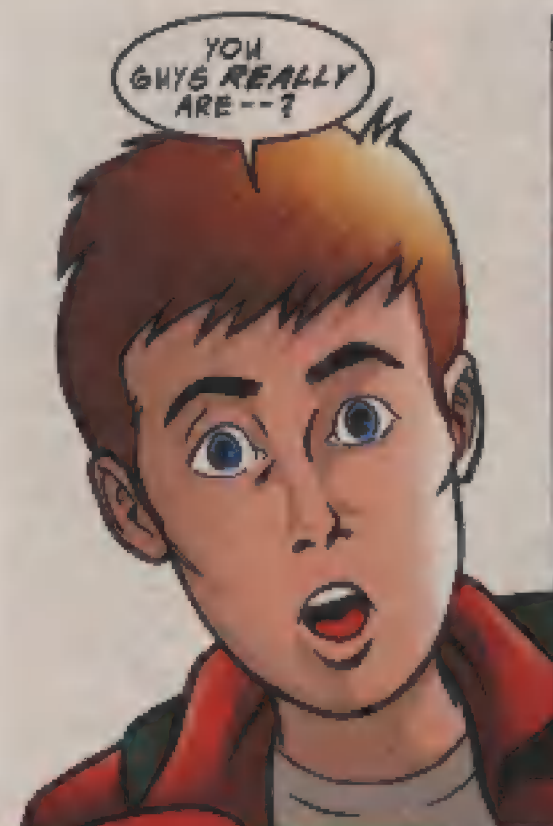
IF YOU'RE LOST, I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET HOME TO YOUR PARENTS!

WE'RE LOST, ALRIGHT--



--AND RIGHT NOW, IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE FIND THE CHAOS EMERALD IMMEDIATELY, IF NOT SOONER!

CHAOS EMERALD?!



YOU
GUYS REALLY
ARE--?



HOW--?

NOT "HOW!" WHY
IS THE QUESTION I WANT
ANSWERS TO!

I WAS IN A
HIDDEN BROTTO
ON THE FLOATING
ISLAND--



--LEFT
UNCONSCIOUS
UNTIL I FELT
THE COLD
RUSH OF WATER
POURING
IN!



"CONSIDERING THE ISLAND HOVERS
AMONG THE CLOUDS, I DIDN'T NEED TO
BE A HIGH COUNCIL MEMBER TO KNOW
SOMETHING WAS MAJOR LEAGUE WRONG!



"ONCE OUTSIDE, I COULD SEE THE
FULL SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM--

--THAT IT WAS WAY BEYOND
ANYTHING I COULD HANDLE
ON MY OWN!"



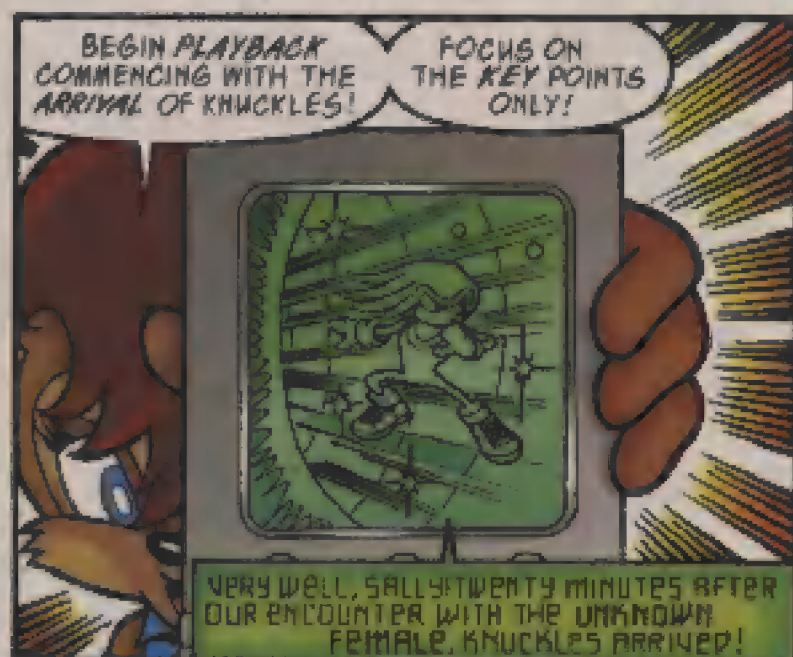
WITH EVERYONE ON THE ISLAND
TRYING TO COPE WITH THE DISASTER--

--THAT
DIDN'T LEAVE
ME WITH MANY
OPTIONS!

OH?







"UPON COMPARING NOTES, IT HAD BEEN DEDUCED SHE ORIGINATED FROM SOME OTHER LOCATION..."



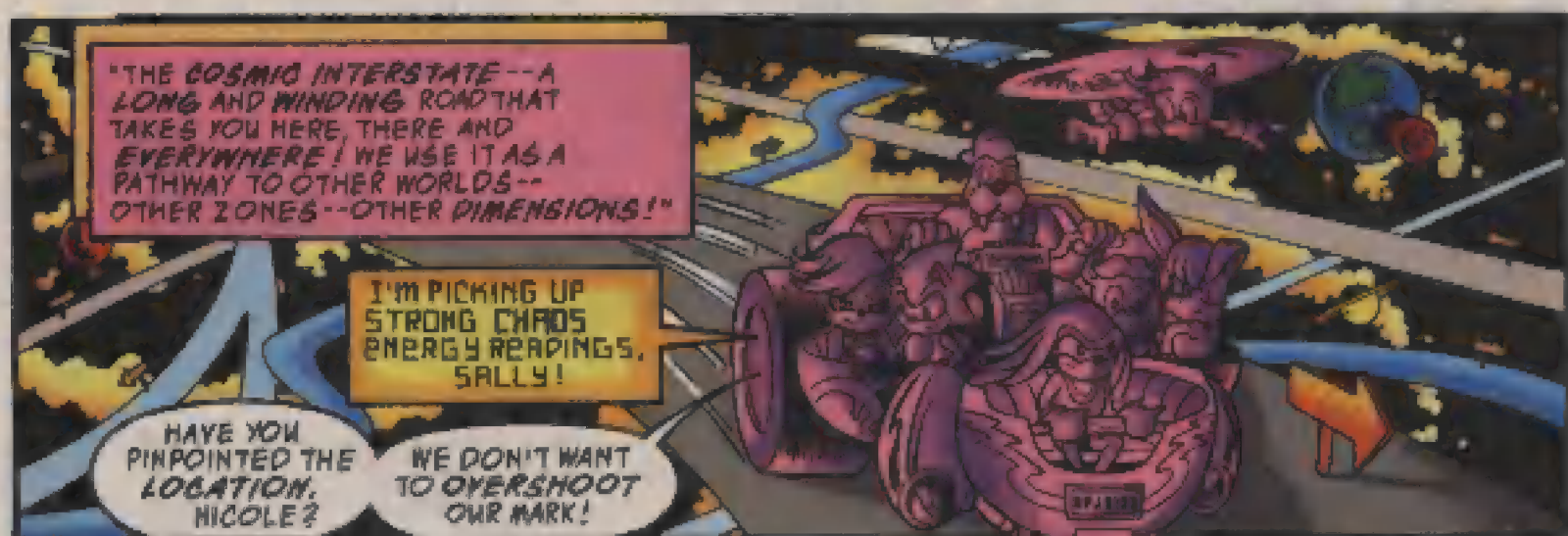
MY SENSORS RECORD NO SIGN OF ENERGY WAVES NORMALLY EMANATING FROM THE CHAOS EMERALD ANYWHERE HERE ON MOBIUS!

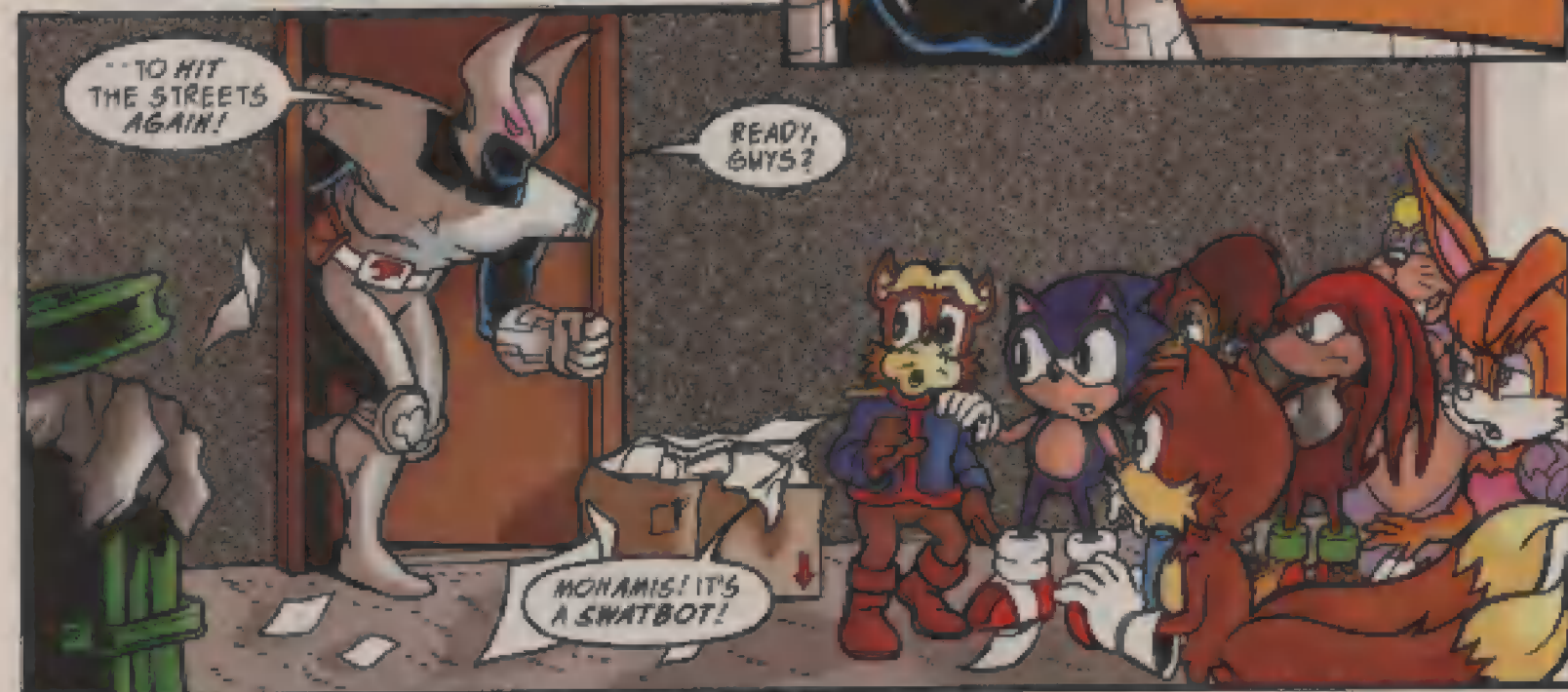
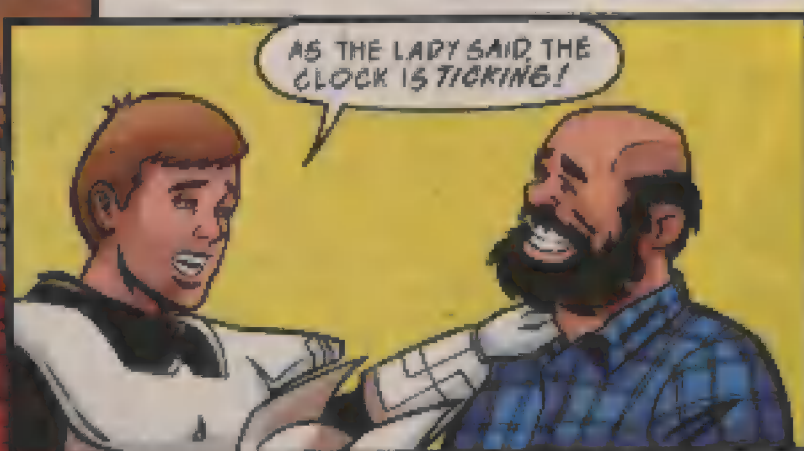
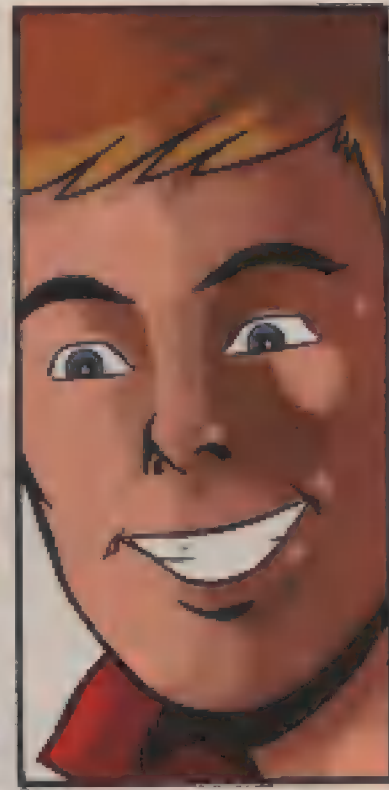
SWELL!

"CONFIRMING KNUCKLES' WORST FEARS, IMMEDIATE PREPARATIONS WERE BEGUN IN REGARDS TO RETRIEVING THE FLOATING ISLAND'S ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL..."



*Knuckles is referring to Dr. IVO ROBOTNIK, who fought his FINAL battle against Sonic in the now classic SONIC #50, recently restored to its full originally-intended length in SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #6





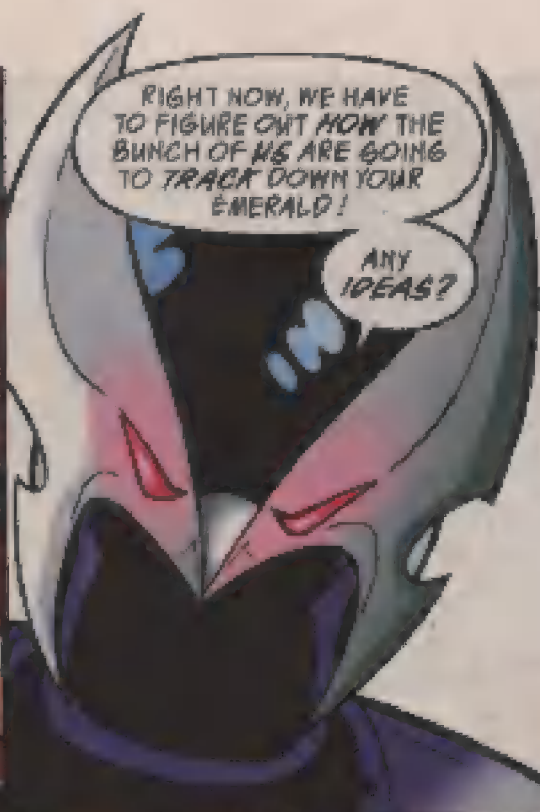


COOL
YOUR JETS,
ANTOINE!

LET'S NOT
BROADCAST
THAT, ALL RIGHT!

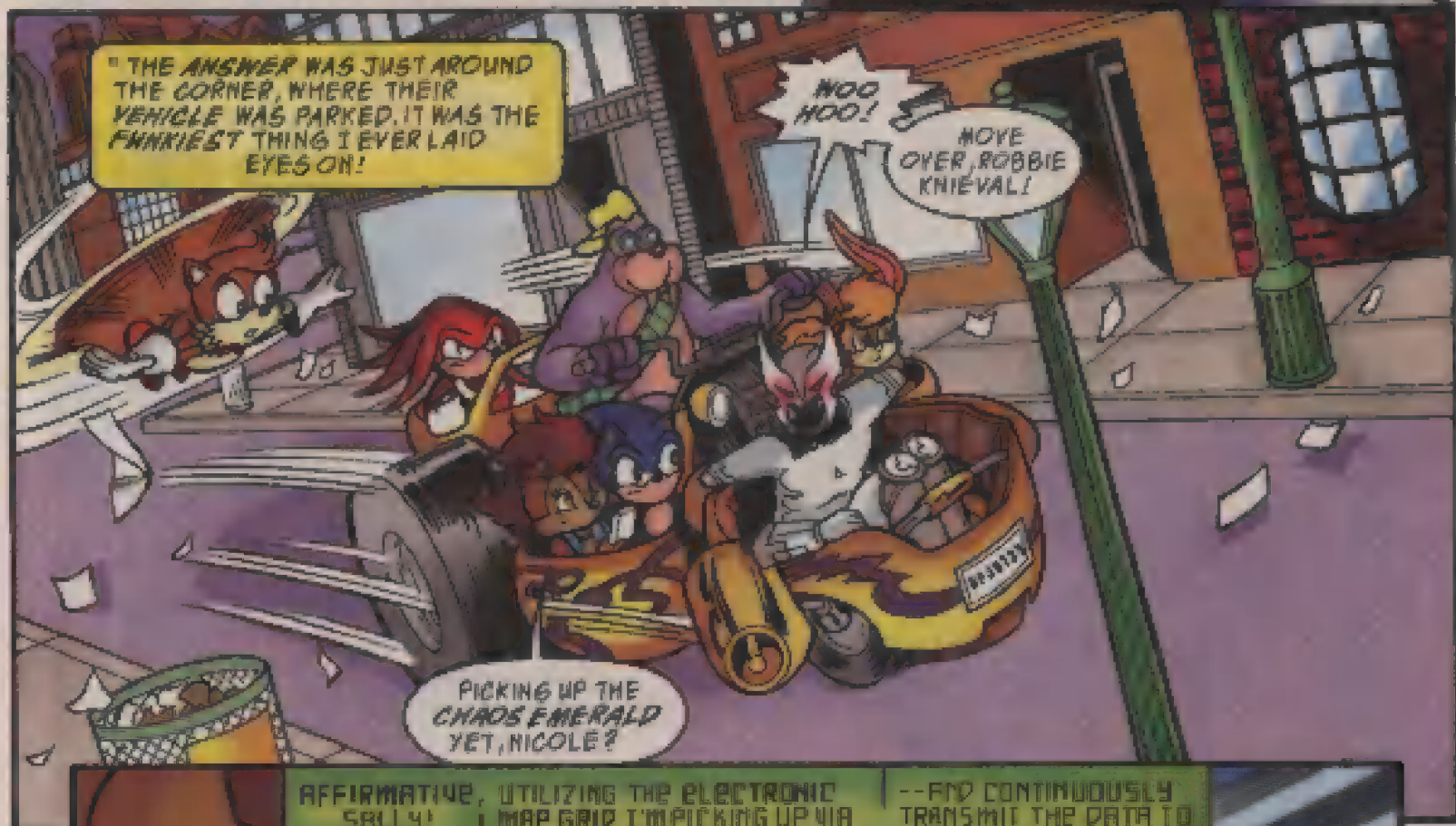
ONLY
MY DAD
KNOWS!

IT'S THE
KID!



RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE
TO FIGURE OUT HOW THE
BUNCH OF US ARE GOING
TO TRACK DOWN YOUR
EMERALD!

ANY
IDEAS?

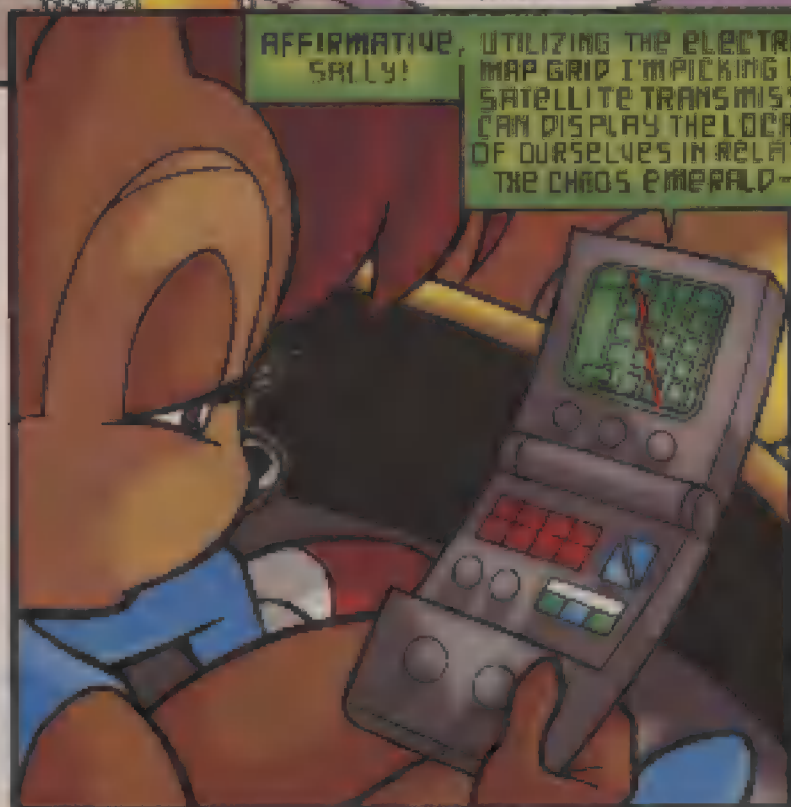


"THE ANSWER WAS JUST AROUND
THE CORNER, WHERE THEIR
VEHICLE WAS PARKED. IT WAS THE
FUNNIEST THING I EVER LAID
EYES ON!"

HOO
HOO!

MOVE
OVER, ROBBIE
KNIEVAL!

PICKING UP THE
CHAOS EMERALD
YET, NICOLE?



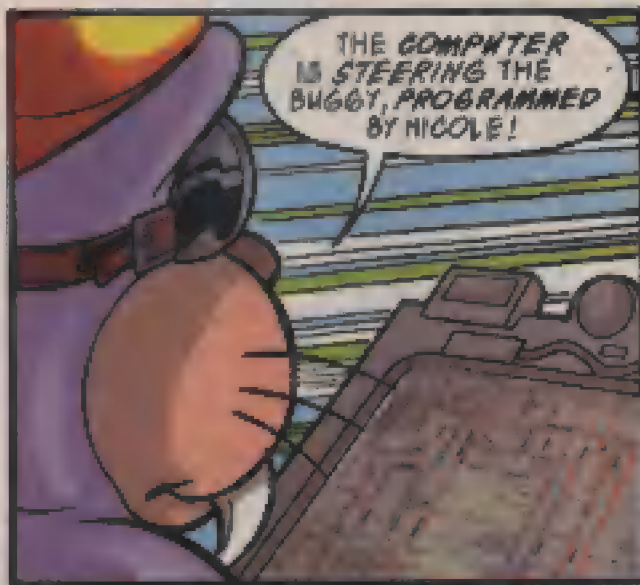
AFFIRMATIVE,
SALLY!

UTILIZING THE ELECTRONIC
MAP GRID I'M PICKING UP VIA
SATELLITE TRANSMISSION, I
CAN DISPLAY THE LOCATIONS
OF OURSELVES IN RELATION TO
THE CHAOS EMERALD--



--AND CONTINUOUSLY
TRANSMIT THE DATA TO
THE ONBOARD NAVIGA-
TIONAL COMPUTER!

TRANSLATION?



"AT FIRST, NO ONE NOTICED! AFTER ALL, THIS WAS NEW YORK..."

"MOM! DO YOU SEE WHO IT IS?!!"

"IT'S ABOUT TIME WE ACTUALLY CAN GET AWAY FROM IT ALL, OHMEN!"

"DID YOU KNOCK ON WOOD YET, JILL?"



"IT ONLY TOOK SECONDS FOR THE SPECTATORS TO COMPREHEND SOMETHING UNUSUAL WAS OCCURRING AMONG THEM..."



"--AND IF I DON'T DO
SOMETHING ABOUT IT,
WHO ELSE WILL?"

THAT BUNCH
LOOKED MORE THAN
ENOUGH FOR THE
TYPICAL COP TO
HANDLE!

THEN AGAIN,
NO ONE EVER SAID
I WAS TYPICAL!

BLAST!
THEY'RE GETTING
AWAY!

OH,
GREAT--!

WHATEVAH COULD BE
WRONG, SUGAH?

I THINK
WE'RE BEING
FOLLOWED--

--BY THE
DRAGON!

HAVE YOU GONE
LOONEY TUNES?! DWLCY
ISN'T EVEN WITH US!

DWLCY?!
WHO'S
THAT?!

SHE'S A
DRAGON WE
KNOW!

I WOULDN'T KNOW
ABOUT HER!

I WAS TALKING
ABOUT THAT GUY--

THE SAVAGE DRAGON

AND HE'S
FIRING AT
US!

HOOO
BOY!

STOP!
IN THE
NAME OF THE
LAW!!

HE SURE
PLAYS FOR
KEEPS, DOESN'T
HE?

IT'S SO HARD TO TELL
THE GOOD GUYS FROM THE
BAD THESE DAYS!

GUESS I
HAVE TO REMIND
HIM WHO'S
WHO!

WHAT DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE DOING? IT'S THE
END OF THE LINE ANY-
WAY!

YOU GUYS CAN'T
BOARD THE TRAIN IF MY
FRIEND IS FIRING AT
US!

YOU
KNOW THIS
NUTBALL?!

YEAH! WE'VE
MET!

WHY DO I
FEEL IT TAKES
ONE TO KNOW
ONE!

MAY I REMIND YOU THE CHAOS
EMERALD IS LEAVING ON THAT
DEPARTING TRAIN?

*Check out ALTERED
IMAGES #1-3 - Justin

"--ALL ABOARD!"

YOU HEARD
NICOLE,
EVERYONE--

HAVE YOU
LOST IT,
DRAGON?!

WOULDN'T
YOU SHOOT
FIRST AND
ASK QUESTIONS
LATER--

YOU COULD'VE
KILLED US!!!

--IF YOU SAW A
BUNCH OF HOOLIGANS
TEAR--THROUGH--

GET BACK!
THAT CYCLE'S
ALIVE!!

WHOA!

THAT THING'S
GOT MORE GIMMICKS
THAN JAMES BOND!

WHRRR KUK-KUK-KLK

ALLOW ME TO BE
OF ASSISTANCE!



HUH? GUESS IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT NEW YORK!

CAN'T WALK AROUND WITHOUT STUMBLING INTO YOU SUPER-TYPES!



PARDON MY OBSERVATION, BUT HAVE YOU LOOKED IN THE MIRROR LATELY?

BY THE WAY, THE NAME IS--

UNION

I'VE SEEN YOU! I'M SHADOWHAWK! AND IT'S A--

NEVER MIND THAT! WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER THAT BUNCH!



WE STAND MORE OF A CHANCE FOLLOWING THE TRAIN THROUGH THE AIR THAN ON FOOT--

--THOUGH I'M MORE CURIOUS AS TO THE URGENCY TO PURSUE CHILDREN DRESSED AS CARTOON CHARACTERS!

LOOK AT ME! I'M FLYING!!

THIS IS SOOOOO COOL!

LEME DOWN, YA BIG DOOFUS! THIS DRAGON DOESN'T FLY!

AS FOR THOSE KIDS--



"--JUST BECAUSE THEY MAY BE KIDS DOESN'T MAKE THEM ANY LESS DANGEROUS!"

ACCORDING TO MY SENSORS--



--THE CHAOS EMERALD IS SOMEWHERE AHEAD IN THIS CAR!

BE READY FOR ANYTHING, SAL!

AH, THERE YOU ARE!

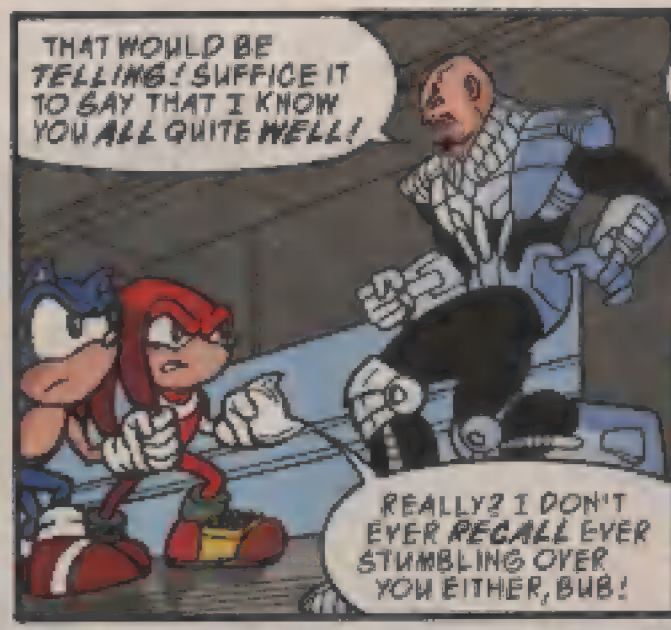


IT TOOK YOU A BIT LONGER THAN I EXPECTED, BUT I KNEW YOU'D COME AFTER THIS LITTLE BAUBLE REGARDLESS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YOU KNEW?" AM I MISSING SOMETHING HERE?

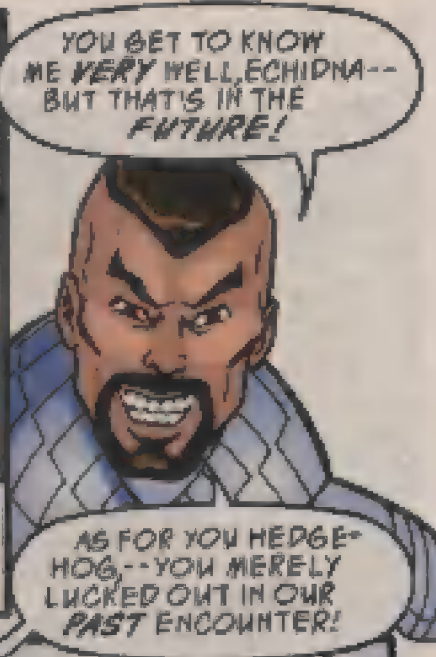
HOW WOULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MASTER CHAOS EMERALD?

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THE DARK, LADY!



THAT WOULD BE TELLING! SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I KNOW YOU ALL QUITE WELL!

REALLY? I DON'T EVER RECALL EVER STUMBLING OVER YOU EITHER, BUB!



YOU BET TO KNOW ME VERY WELL, ECHIDNA-- BUT THAT'S IN THE FUTURE!

AS FOR YOU HEDGEHOG-- YOU MERELY LUCKED OUT IN OUR PAST ENCOUNTER!



THIS TIME, HOWEVER, I'M MORE IN CONTROL THAN ANYONE DARES IMAGINE!

WHEN YOU LEARN--

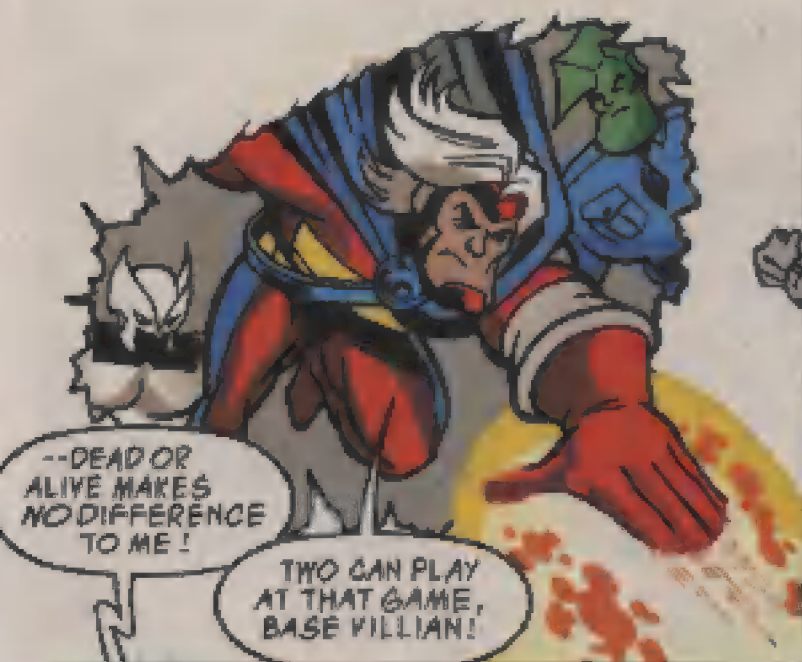
SKKRAAP

AH! THERE THEY ARE! INTERESTING SET-UP, TO SAY THE LEAST!



WHO APPOINTED YOU SET DESIGNER?

BRING HIM DOWN, MY MAN-DROIDS!



SWATBOT-ONE-TO-SQUADRON--

I'VE LOCKED-ONTO-THE-MASTER'S-SIGNAL!

SWATBOT-ONE-TO-SQUADRON--

I'VE LOCKED-ONTO-THE-MASTER'S-SIGNAL!

SENSORS-INDICATE-
THE-MASTER-IS-
BELOW-US--

--ALONG-WITH-
VARIOUS-ALIEN-
LIFEFORMS!

SENSORS-INDICATE-
THE-MASTER-IS-
BELOW-US--

--ALONG-WITH-
VARIOUS-ALIEN-
LIFEFORMS!

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! ISAAC! GET YOUR TEAM IN HERE IMMEDIATELY.. --FOR THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE!

AS-YOU-COMMAND-MASTER!

PHASE ONE IS

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
ISAAC! GET YOUR TEAM
IN HERE
IMMEDIATELY..

--FOR THERE
IS MUCH TO BE
DONE!

AS-YOU-COMMAND-MASTER!

PHASE ONE IS

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
ISAAC! GET YOUR TEAM
IN HERE
IMMEDIATELY..

--FOR THERE
IS MUCH TO BE
DONE!

AS-YOU-COMMAND-MASTER!

PHASE ONE IS

NOW COMPLETE!

I HAVE
GATHERED TOGETHER
THE UNWITTING
COMPONENTS FOR
THE MOST INSIDIOUS
PLOT EVER DEVISED--

NOW COMPLETE!

I HAVE
GATHERED TOGETHER
THE UNWITTING
COMPONENTS FOR
THE MOST INSIDIOUS
PLOT EVER DEVISED--

--AND WITH THE
INCALCULABLE ENERGY
OF THIS **AMAZING** GEM-
STONE HARNESSSED UNDER
MY CONTROL --

--THERE'LL SOON
BE A CRISIS ON INFINITE
REALITIES RESULTING IN
ONLY ONE --

--MINE!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

[illegible][illegible]

--AND WITH THE
INCALCULABLE ENERGY
OF THIS AMAZING GEM-
STONE HARNESSSED UNDER
MY CONTROL--

--THERE'LL SOON
BE A CRISIS ON INFINITE
REALITIES RESULTING IN
ONLY ONE--

--MINE!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA



"AS OUT OF IT AS I WAS, I COULD SENSE THINGS WERE PROGRESSING ALL AROUND ME, AND I'M SURE I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE UNHAPPY WITH WHAT WAS GOING DOWN...

I DID MY PART, DOCTOR--NOW I EXPECT YOU TO LIVE UP TO YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN!

MY DEAR PARTICLE, I'M FAR FROM BEING FINISHED WITH YOU!

CONSIDER THE POWER YOU POSSESS -- THE ABILITY TO CONTROL AND MANIPULATE ELECTRICAL IMPULSES--AND ITS AWESOME IMPLICATIONS!

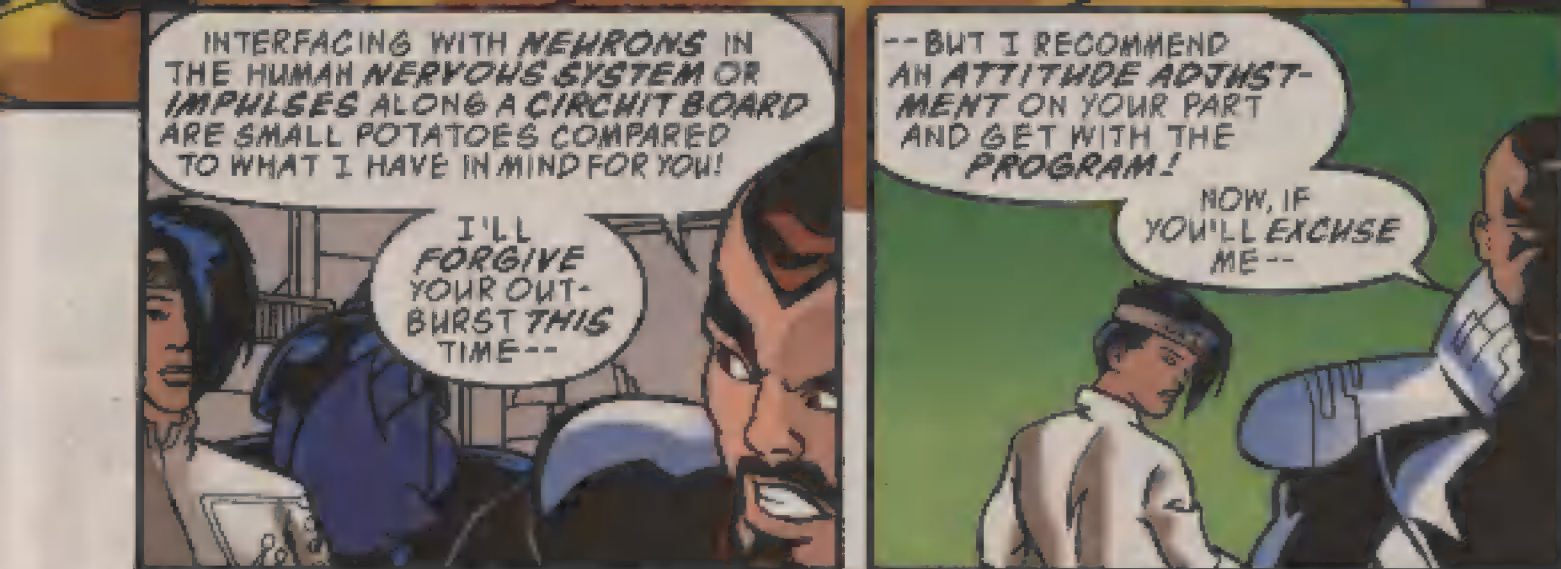


INTERFACING WITH NEURONS IN THE HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM OR IMPULSES ALONG A CIRCUIT BOARD ARE SMALL POTATOES COMPARED TO WHAT I HAVE IN MIND FOR YOU!

I'LL FORGIVE YOUR OUTBURST THIS TIME--

--BUT I RECOMMEND AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT ON YOUR PART AND GET WITH THE PROGRAM!

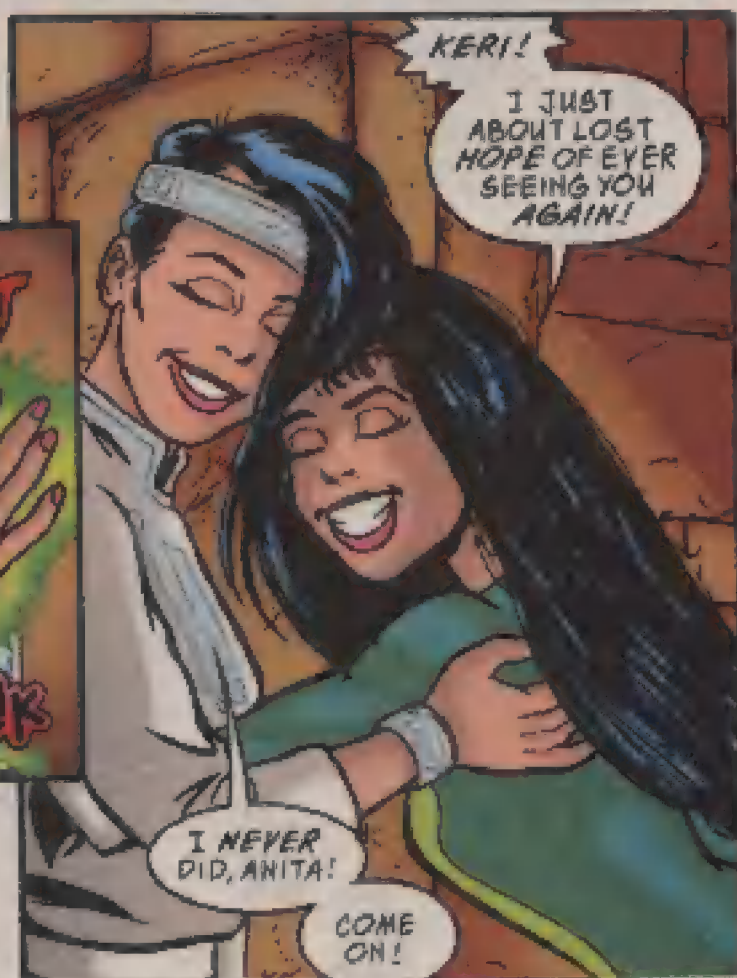
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--



--I SEE OTHERS HAVE NEED OF MY WISDOM AND GUIDANCE!

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, YOU ARMOR-PLATED DOLTS?



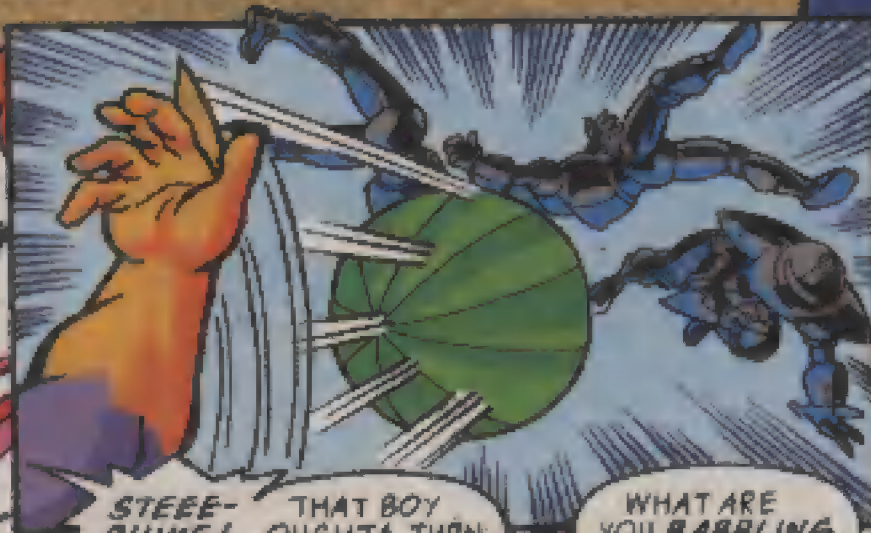




--BUT I'M
JUST GETTING
WARMED
UP!

WELL,
I'LL BE--!

JUST WHEN
YOU THOUGHT YOU
SAW IT ALL, EH?



STEEE-
RIIKE!

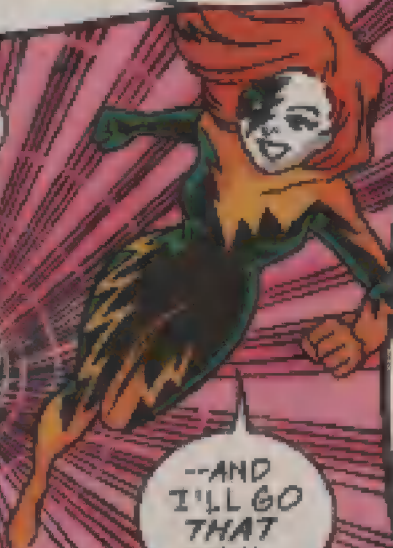
THAT BOY
OUGHTA TURN
PRO!

WHAT ARE
YOU BABBLING
ABOUT?

WE NEED THAT
HUNK OF ROCK IN
ONE PIECE!

NOT TO MENTION
THE NUTCASE THAT
STOLE IT FROM
US!

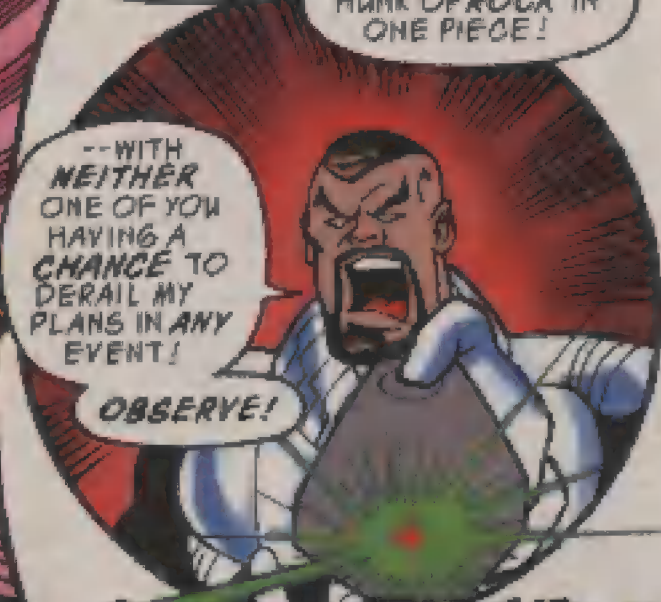
I'LL
TAKE THIS
WAY--



--WITH
NEITHER
ONE OF YOU
HAVING A
CHANCE TO
DERAIL MY
PLANS IN ANY
EVENT!

OBSERVE!

--AND
I'LL GO
THAT
WAY!



"I'VE STUDIED THE CHAOS
FORCES FOR COUNTLESS
YEARS ACROSS UNTOLD
PERMUTATIONS OF REALITIES--

--AND NOW, AS
A RESULT OF ALL
MY EFFORTS--

"--I'M GOING TO RECREATE REALITY --MY WAY!"

THIS IS WHACKO! THERE'S ONLY ONE NUT-JOB I KNOW OF CAPABLE OF THIS --

--AND HE BIT THE BIG ONE!

JUST WHO ARE YOU?!

AS MUCH AS IT KILLS ME NOT TO GLOAT, HEDGEHOG, I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TELL YOU UNTIL THE FINAL ENDGAME!

AT THE MOMENT--

"--I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF I PREFER THE THIRTY-THIRD CENTURY POST-APOCALYPTIC STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE--

"--OVER TWENTIETH CENTURY ART DECO!

"I CAN NEVER DECIDE!"

MAYBE I COULD MAKE THE CHOICE FOR YOU, MAC!

HOW ABOUT NEITHER?

YOU!

WHETHER OR
NOT YOU KNOW
HE DOESN'T
MATTER!

WHAT
DOES--

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU
CYBERNETIC CLOPS DO--
GRIND HIS BONES TO PASTE--
USE HIM FOR TOMORROW'S STEW--

-- JUST GET
RID OF THE
ECHIDNA!

--IS THAT
I'VE A JOB
TO DO!

SMASH ANY
SWATBOT BEFORE
THEY CAN EVEN
GET NEAR
KNUCKLES!

EVERYONE!!
ATTACK!!



MANOH, MANH
... NOT SURE -- I
CAN DO THIS!

LOOK
INSIDE YOUR-
SELF,
KNUCKLES!

THIS IS
WHAT YOU WERE
BORN FOR!

FATHER...?

DON'T LISTEN
TO HIM, KNUCKLES!
YOUR DESTINY IS
TO RULE A
UNIVERSE!

I GAVE YOU
ABILITIES FAR
BEYOND ANY
ECHIDNA, MY
SON--

SETTING OUR SIGHTS
A TAD HIGHER, AREN'T WE,
GREAT UNCLE DIMITRI?

ONLY YOU CAN
MAKE THE CHOICE WHETHER
TO PROPERLY USE OR
SQUANDER THE GIFT I
PROVIDED!

EVEN IF I DON'T
UNDERSTAND--

--WHAT CHOICE
DO I HAVE BUT TO
LISTEN TO MY
FATHER?

SO MUCH
POWER--

SO MUCH
ENERGY--

ALL I
WANT--

--IS MY
WORLD--

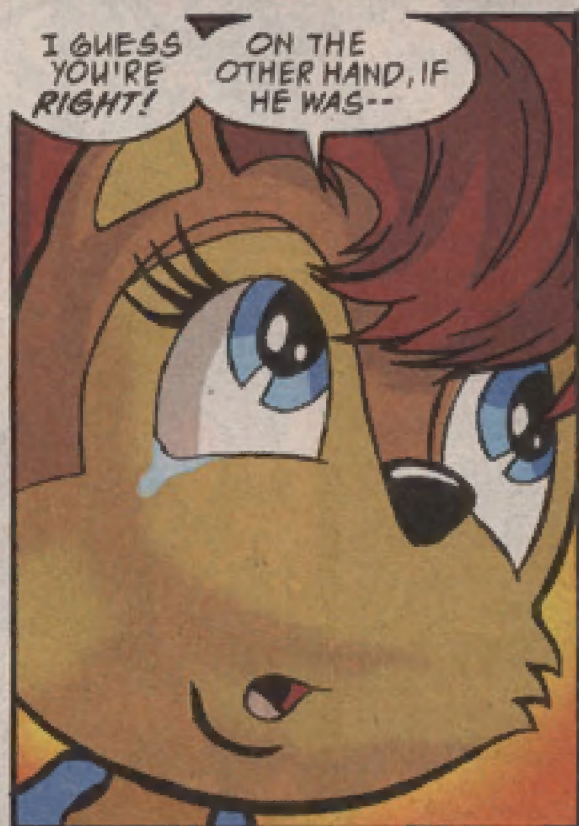
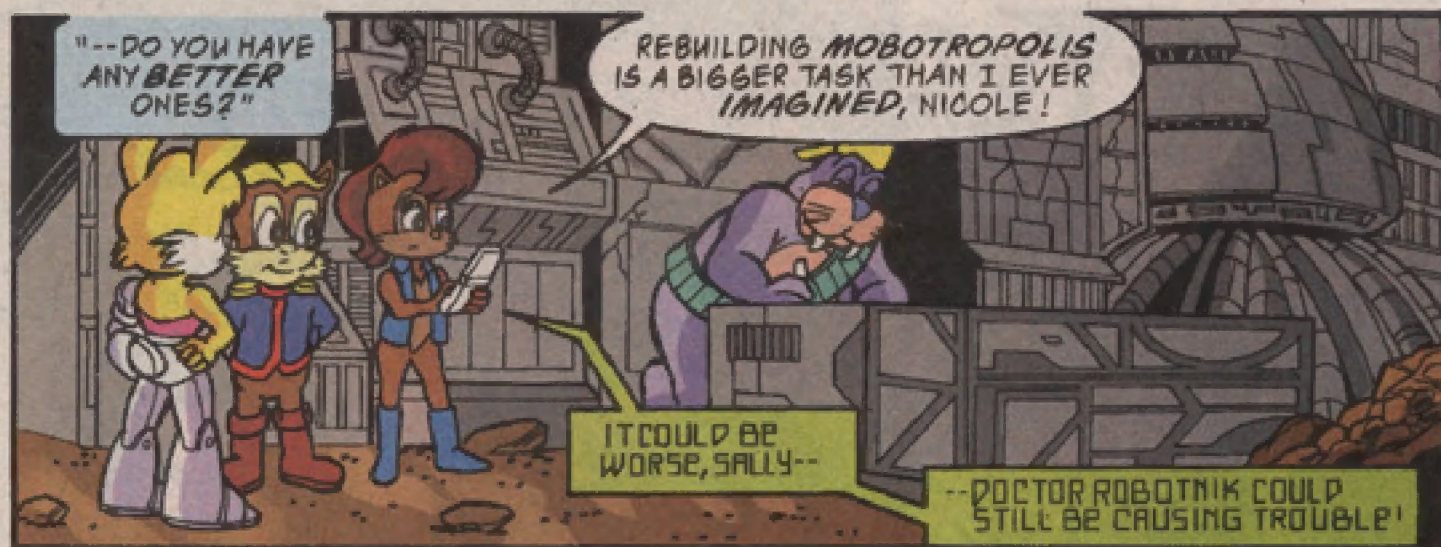
--RESTORED
TO

MEL









--IT WAS **MASS HALLUCINATION** BROUGHT ON BY **MICROWAVES** DURING THE **TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN!**

COME ON, LANA! OUR **FIRST ENCOUNTER** WITH THE CONCEPT OF **MULTIPLE REALITIES** AND THAT'S THE **BEST** YOU CAN COME UP WITH?

HAVE YOU **EVER** CONSIDERED AFTER ALL OUR CASES TOGETHER **WHY** PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IS SO **IMPORTANT** TO ME, SCOLDER?

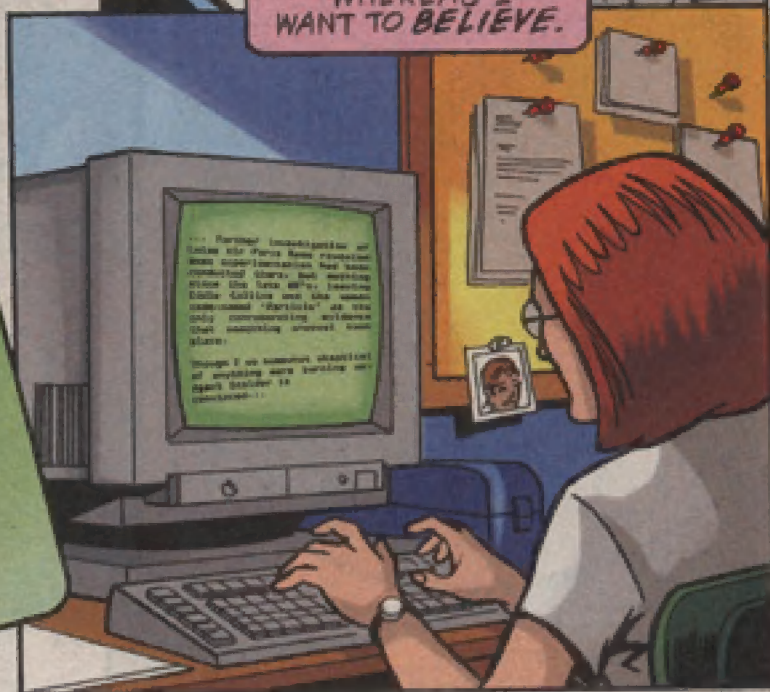
YOU **ALREADY** HAVE **FAITH** IN YOUR **CONVICTIONS**--



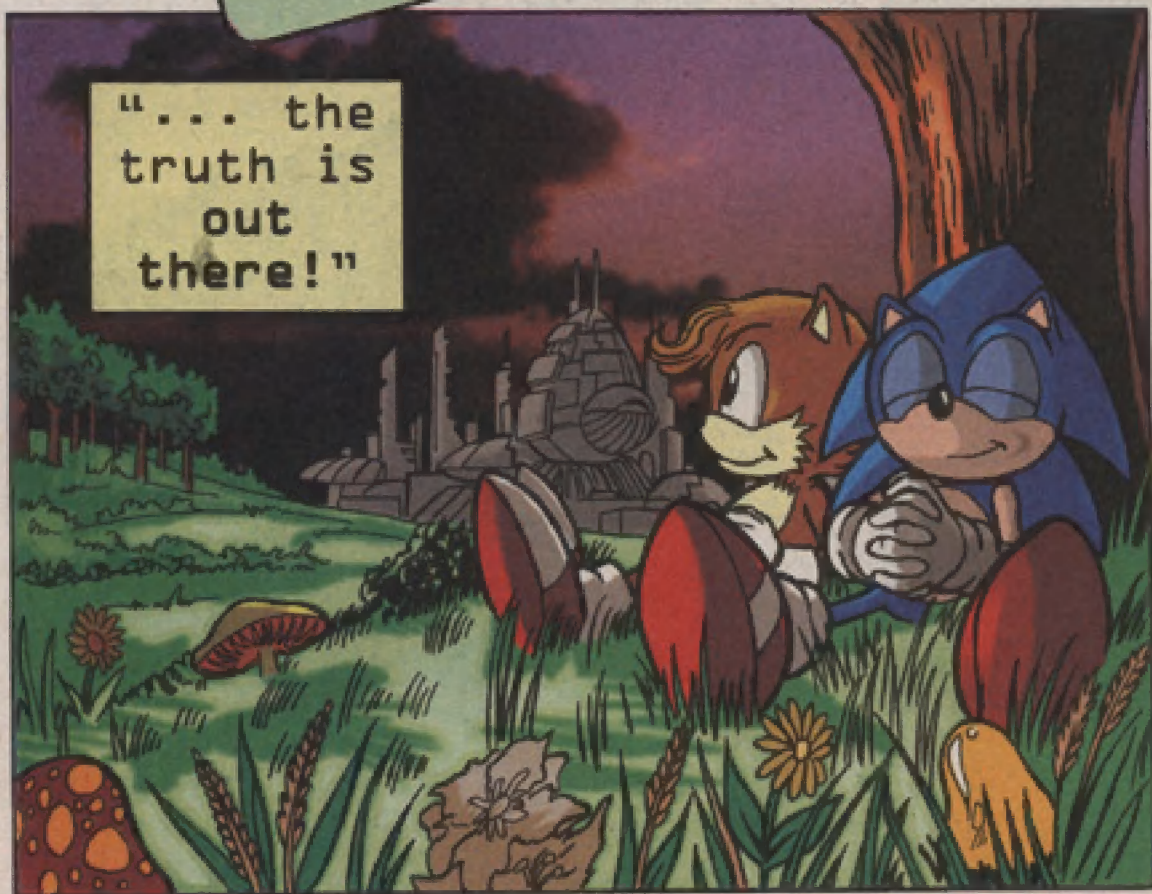
--WHEREAS I WANT TO BELIEVE.

... further investigation of Lucas Air Force Base revealed some experimentation had been conducted there, but nothing since the late 80's, leaving Eddie Collins and the woman code-named 'Particle' as the only corroborating evidence that something unusual took place.

Though I am somewhat skeptical of anything more turning up, Agent Scolder is convinced...



"... the truth is out there!"



Dedicated
to Chris
("I made
this!")
Carter